

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 052478

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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: WHERE DO WE STAND?

1. PUGWASH CONFERENCE AFTERMATH: REPORT FROM JULIEN ENGLE OF NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES INDICATES THAT PUGWASH MEETING WAS SOMEWHAT MIXED AFFAIR. WHILE DISCUSSIONS FRIENDLY AND PRODUCTIVE, AMERICANS, ENGLE REPORTED, HEARD FROM INDIAN TEAM LEADER ASHOK PARTHASARATHY, MRS. GANDHI'S SCIENCE ADVISER, THAT NOTHING LIKELY TO TRANSPIRE IN WAY OF NEW INDO-US SCIENCE COOPERATION UNTIL U.S. AGREES TO INDIAN REQUEST FOR S&T AGREEMENT. ENGLE SURPRISED WHEN WE TOLD HIM GOI HAS YET TO MAKE OFFICIAL APPROACH TO US FOR SUCH AN AGREEMENT (POSSIBLY PARTHASARATHY CONFUSED AGREEMENT WITH COMMISSION IDEA). WE TOLD ENGLE THAT WE ARE IN PRINCIPLE WILLING TO CONSIDER S&T AGREEMENT IF GOI ASKS FOR ONE, BUT WE

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PAGE 02 STATE 052478

PLAN NO INITIATIVE.

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WE ALSO STRESSED - AND ENGLE SAID THIS WAS VIEW OF U.S. PUGWASH TEAM - THAT U.S. IS NOT INTERESTED IN S&T AGREEMENT THAT ENDS UP RESTRICTING INSTEAD OF ENCOURAGING EXCHANGES AND JOINT RESEARCH.

2. RE SPECIFIC AREAS OF JOINTRESEARCH CONSIDERED AT PUGWASH CONFERENCE,ENGLE SAID U.S.SIDE WAS MIFFED TO HEAR FROM PARTHASARTHY (WHO SEEMS TO HAVE ALL THE MAKINGS OF SCIENTIFIC KRISHNA MENON) THAT GOI WOULD NOW

HAVE TO SEE HOW THESE FITTED INTO INDIAN SCIENCE PRIORITIES. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY ANNOYING SINCE AREAS INITIALLY DEVELOPED ON BASIS INDIAN INTERESTS.

3. ENGLE ALSO GAVE US COPY OF REVELLE JAN. 24 LETTER TO AMBASSADOR. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY EMBASSY COMMENTS/ RECOMMENDATIONS ON THIS.

4. LOCAL CURRENCY FUNDED RESEARCH: YOUR RECENT MESSAGES PROVIDED US WITH HELPFUL RECAP. WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO KEEP US POSTED BY CABLE ON APPROVAL BY GOI OF PROJECTS. WE GATHER LOGJAM IS NOW BREAKING AND PRE-1972 PATTERN IS BEING REESTABLISHED.

5. AS INDICATED IN S&T WORKING PAPER, WHICH WE SENT EMBASSY LAST NOVEMBER, WE ARE PLANNING, IN KEEPING WITH SENSE OF RUPEE AGREEMENT, TO MAINTAIN ANNUAL LIMIT FOR LOCAL CURRENCY RESEARCH PROGRAMS AT ABOUT \$10 MILLION EQUIVALENT IN 1973 RUPEES. AGENCY BUDGET REQUESTS FOR FY 75 TOTAL ABOUT \$7.5 MILLION EQUIVALENT, OR WELL WITHIN CEILING. INTER-AGENCY GROUP CHAIRED BY SCI WILL HAVE TASK OF MONITORING AGENCY BUDGET REQUESTS.

6. SINCE THERE WILL BE NO MORE PL-480 RUPEE FUNDS AFTER JULY 1, WE SUGGEST THAT WE USE NAME INDO-AMERICAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS AS OFFICIAL DESIGNATION OF LOCAL CURRENCY FUNDED RESEARCH IN INDIA. PLEASE CONFIRM THAT THIS ACCEPTABLE OR SUGGEST ALTER-NATIVE NAME.

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PAGE 03 STATE 052478

7. ACTION: FOR TIME BEING, WE BELIEVE NO ACTION IS NECESSARY ON OUR PART - OR YOURS--VIS A VIS INDIANS. AS PROMISED, GOI IS NOW AGAIN APPROVING S&T COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS. IF INDIANS WANT S&T AGREEMENT, WE EXPECT THAT THEY WILL OFFICIALLY ASK FOR THIS. QUESTION OF S&T COMMISSION HAS, OF COURSE, BEEN RAISED IN CONTEXT OF BROADER BINATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION AND IS BEING CONSIDERED BY US IN THIS FRAMEWORK. WE ALSO ARE AWAITING

FORMAL REPORT OF PUGWASH MEETING WHICH WE GATHER FROM
ENGLE IS STILL WITH PARTHASARATHY.

8. LET US KNOW IF WE HAVE THINGS STRAIGHT. KISSINGER

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